

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3454
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2161

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE, EXCEPT ADDIS ABABA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAU, SU, ET
SUBJ: ETHIOPIA LODGES FORMAL PROTEST WITH OAU AGAINST SUDANESE
AGRESSION

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 1990, B. ADDIS ABABA 2005

1. APRIL 12 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTED THAT ETHIOPIAN
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COL. DR. FELEKE GEDLE-GHIORGIS,
BRIEFED ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY GENERAL, WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA, ON SITUATION CURRENTLY
PREVAILING BETWEEN SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA. MOFA SPOKESMAN STATED FELEKE
CONVEYED TO OAU SEC GEN ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY
GOVERNMENT (EPMG) PROTEST AGAINST "RECENT DIRECT
AGGRESSION LAUNCHED BY ARMED FORCES OF SUDAN ON
ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY THROUGH NORTHERN AND WESTERN PARTS
OF COUNTRY." FELEKE ASKED OAU SEC GEN TO COMMUNICATE
PROTEST URGENTLY TO LEADERS OF ALL OAU MEMBER STATES.
FELEKE PRESENTED ETEKI MEMORANDUM EXPLAINING CASE IN
DETAIL. ETEKI ASSURED FONMIN HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY
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TRANSMIT ETHIOPIA'S PROTEST TO ALL OAU MEMBER STATES'
LEADERS.

2. DURING CALL ON OAU SEC GEN PETER ONU MORNING APRIL
12, ONU CONFIRMED RECEIPT OF NOTE FROM ETHIOPIANS
ALONG LINES OF PARA ONE ABOVE. NOTE REFERRED TO USE
OF ARTILLERY AND TANKS BY SUDANESE AGAINST ETHIOPIA

AND OF CLASHES INVOLVING SUDANESE TROOPS INSIDE ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. OAU REQUESTED ONLY TO CIRCULATE NOTE, BUT ONU SPECULATED THAT SECRETARIAT MIGHT TAKE A LITTLE INITIATIVE AND SEND HIM TO KHARTOUM ON FACT-FINDING MISSION. ONU SAID HE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN RIFT WOULD LEAD TO WIDER SPLIT BETWEEN ARABS AND AFRICANS IN OAU. OAU FIRMLY BELIEVES IN PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS AND OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. WHILE ETHIOPIA MAY HAVE BEEN WRONG IN HARBORING ANSARS OPPOSED TO SUDANESE GOVT, SUDANESE EQUALLY WRONG. ACCORDING TO ONU TWO WRONGS DID NOT MAKE RIGHT AND SUDANESE WERE NOW COMPOUNDING PROBLEM BY THEIR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS ALONG NORTHWESTERN ETHIOPIAN BORDER AND TOWARD ERITREA.

COMMENT: RECENT ETHIOPIAN EFFORTS TO GAIN AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITIONS ON TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, MEANING ERITREA, AND ON TRUE DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE, APPEAR TO HAVE ESCALATED TO HIGHER LEVEL. ETHIOPIAN EFFORT TO RAISE TO OAU LEVEL ISSUE OF ITS OWN TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, WHICH EPMG APPARENTLY BELIEVES THREATENED BY SUDANESE SUPPORT FOR ERITREAN AND ANTI-EPMG DISSIDENT GROUPS, COULD RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT AMONG OAU MEMBERS. RECENT UNSUCCESSFUL SUDANESE EFFORTS TO LOBBY OR RELOCATION OF OAU HQ'S AND OAU PRECEDENTS ESTABLISHED IN NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR AND ELSEWHERE
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SUPPORTING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, ARE LIKELY FIND REAL SYMPATHY AMONG AFRICANS. MEANWHILE, ETHIOPIAN MEDIA HAVE ANNOUNCED PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU WILL ADDRESS NATION EVENING APRIL 12 ON "ACTS OF AGGRESSION AND INTERFERENCE AGAINST ETHIOPIA'S UNITY AND HER REVOLUTION BY NEIGHBORING REACTIONARY FORCES AND IMPERIALISM WHICH USING CONFIRMED INTERNAL CLASS ENEMIES." (PAO HAS HEARD RUMORS U.S. MAY BE ACCUSED OF SUPPORTING SUDANESE EFFORTS AGAINST EPMG).
TIENKEN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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